

Public Transportation and Bicycle committee

Minutes of May 15, 2012 meeting.

Members in Attendance: Sanjay Arwade, John Bamberger, Richard Fein, Dorie Gold, Karen Kowles, Fran VanTreese, Eve Vogel

Others Present: Jan Eidelson, Karen Jones, Guilford Mooring, Cheryl Zoll

Fran called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

1. Amherst Survival Center: Cheryl Zoll (Executive Director) and Jan Eidelson (Board Chair) spoke about transportation needs of the Center in its new home on Sunderland Road. Cheryl noted that about 200 clients a day visit the Center, and about 130 volunteers during the week (in addition to staff). The client base includes people who are elderly, disabled in some capacity and/or homeless.

Currently the Center is served by the 31 Bus, but the nearest stop to the new Center (projected January, 2013) is at House of Teriyaki about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away. The 32 bus runs only 5 times a day and will stop at a distance from the Center unless the current route can be modified. Cowls Lane was suggested in that regard, but we were advised that the poor condition of the road will not accommodate buses.

There has been some discussion of establishing a shuttle, but the cost may be prohibitive.

We summarized the discussion as follow:

- The committee will help the Survival Center get information from the PVRTA about what it would take (logistics and cost) to add runs to Route 32 down Sunderland Road.
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- Another question for PVRTA: What would be the cost of running a (small) bus just from downtown to the Survival Center five days a week (3-5 times per day)? Are there other logistical obstacles that would need to be overcome?
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- The Survival Center will get a more specific count of the number of clients, volunteers and staff who rely on the bus to get to the Center.
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- The Survival Center will continue to look into transportation related grants that might help finance whatever solution we come up with.

Bus 37 Survey: John Musante would like to know about any surveys first. The subject is now in limbo until the fall semester.

Guilford: The North Amherst Bike Path is moving along.

Friday, May 18 is the RFP submission deadline to the Transportation Plan Task Force . The TPTF will then review and make recommendations regarding each submission.

(Sanjay will be first alternate and Eve will be second alternate to the TPTF if Lynne or Richard cannot attend a meeting. Lynne and Richard should inform Fran if they cannot attend a TPTF meeting)

Center line painting will occur in the fall at the earliest.

PTBC will not request to review the sidewalk paving near the Amherst Survival Center

Safety Signs: Walk Aware and Light Your Way will be referred to the 6-7 year old consulting agency for graphics. Talk with Your Hands and Tell Them You're Here will be referred to the Town Manager.

Puffers Pond: Guilford explained impediments to sidewalks and wider streets to accommodate bicycles. These include the slope of the ground, conservation areas and the need to kill trees.

The Committee decided to speak with Karen Kowles about a possible meeting with people residing in the Puffers Pond area to discuss pedestrian and bicycle issues. Elisabeth Hamin will be invited to the next PTBC meeting

Minutes of the March and April meetings were approved. Submitted by Richard Fein